

Kings Lane Garage St Neots



Archaeological Evaluation Report



April 2010

Client: Kier Homes

OA East Report No: 1169

OASIS No: oxfordar3-75183

NGR: TL 1899 6037

Kings Lane Garage, St Neots

Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Date: April 2010

Report Number: 1169
Site Name: Kings Lane Garage, St Neots
HER Event No: ECB 3346
Date of Works: February, 2010
Client Name: Kier Homes
Client Ref: N/A
Planning Ref: N/A
Grid Ref: TL 1899 6037
Site Code: STNKIL10
Finance Code: STNKIL10
Receiving Body: CCC Stores, Landbeach
Accession No: STNKIL10
Prepared by: Jonathan House
Position: Supervisor
Date:

Checked by: James Drummond-Murray
Position: Project Manager
Date:
Signed:



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Summary

An Evaluation was carried out at Kings Lane Garage, St Neots, Grid ref TL 1899 6037. The evaluation consisted of two trenches located within the proposed development area. The remains consisted of 19th century demolition, and truncation dating to the period. No earlier features or finds were present on the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Kings Lane Garage, St Neots, at grid reference TL 1899 6037.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application E/09/00078/FUL), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on Oxford Clay, overlain by 1st and 2nd terrace sands and gravels of the Great Ouse. The Great Ouse is 1km to the west of the site, running from south to north. A water course flowing to the river ran through the site, however this was later modified to run through a culvert, which runs along the southern edge of the development area.
- 1.2.2 The site is to the east of the centre of St Neots, at a height of 16.50m AOD. Cambridge street runs east to west to the south of the site, while Kings lane runs to the north and forms the eastern boundary of the site.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site lies to the east of the historic core of St Neots and the site was not developed until after the Second World War. Air photographs show ridge and furrow to the north-east of the site (MCB17367). Remains of a Saxon settlement were found c 150m to the west, nearer town (HER00573) but it is not clear if the settlement extended this far east.
- 1.3.2 To the north of the site various interventions at Longsands College have uncovered Romano-British activity (ECB2350, 2448, 2743).
- 1.3.3 The line of Cambridge Street itself is thought to closely follow that of an Iron Age trackway.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like thank Kier Homes who funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray and the illustrator was Louise Bush, with Jonathan House and Zoe Uí Choileáin as the on-site staff. The project was monitored by Dan McConnell.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that all archaeological deposits should be investigated, and recorded.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation of two trenches was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Rachel Clarke using a Leica GPS.
- 2.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.5 No environmental samples were taken from the site, as no appropriate features were identified during the investigations.
- 2.2.6 The water table on the site was very high, with the water level in the trenches above the archaeological grade. All the features observed were cut from upper layers and were recorded in the trench edge. The original stripping was carefully scrutinised for both features and finds before the water obscured the work.
- 2.2.7 Trenching was also limited due to the space on site, and this factor was exacerbated by the depth of the soils.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Two trenches were excavated, the results are presented and described by trench.

3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 was located beside the garage at the northern end of the site, east west aligned and measured 1.8m wide, and 4.5m in length; a gas pipe was encountered within the trench, preventing 2m of the trench from being fully stripped to the base of the deposits.

3.2.2 Two layers were observed within trench 1, the uppermost of the layers consisted of a demolition spread measuring 0.42m to 0.51m. The demolish material consisted of a highly mixed assemblage of various post medieval brick types, floor tiles, and various slate and ceramic roof tiles.

3.2.3 The second layer (102) was a very clean light yellowish brown, silty clay sub soil measuring 0.33m to 0.45m. No finds were observed in this material anywhere on the site.

3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 Trench 2 measured 17m in length and 1.8m wide, and was located on the east side of the development aligned north-west, south-east. The trench was fully stripped, however two baulks were left in to aid working conditions against the high water table.

3.3.2 Four layers were observed within the trench see section 2, fig 2 and plate 4, the demolition layer (101) continued in the trench again varying in depth, 0.11m to 0.46m. In the areas where the truncation that preceded (101) was less, a further two subsoils survived beneath (101), the latest (105) was a greyish brown, silty clay measuring 0.18m in depth, the second of these subsoils (106) similar make up but contained gravel inclusions.

3.3.3 Feature **103** represents an area of truncation that was observed in the southern end of Trench 2, see section 1, fig 2 and plate 3.

3.4 Finds Summary

3.4.1 All the finds came from (101) and were consistent with 19thC demolition material, the more significant finds can be seen in plate 2. These included a fireplace brick Pers. Comm. (Atkins, 2010), a sherd of 18thC annular pattern yellow ware, two refined earthen ware sherds, one of which was moulded the other a jug sherd with transfer print with hand painted colours, both pieces were gilded, lastly a complete glass bottle from 'Jordan & Addington St Neots'.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Post Medieval

- 4.1.1 The features and finds encountered on the site are consistent with the expected spread or growth of Post Medieval St Neots. No earlier features or finds were observed in the evaluation suggesting the site is too far from the Historic core that lies to the west of the site, and too far from the concentrations of archaeology to the north, at Longsands college.
- 4.1.2 It is highly likely that early 19th century structures existed on the site, or at least in close proximity, as the combination of the demolition material uncovered and the surrounding structures date from this period, this is also supported by the cartographic evidence. It is likely any earlier remains would be located closer to Cambridge street itself, as this is thought to be a much earlier route way.

4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 The site is of low archaeological significance.

4.3 Recommendations

- 4.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Small Trench containing gas services.				Avg. depth (m)		0.86
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
101	Layer	-	0.49	Demolition	Various	19 th C
102	Layer	-	0.44	Subsoil	None	-
Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench containing a lot of modern truncation, with intermittent survival of former subsoils.				Avg. depth (m)		0.09
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		17
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
101	Layer	-	0.43	Demolition	Various	19 th C
102	Layer	-	0.42	Subsoil	None	-
103	Cut	> 3.5	0.78	Pit	-	-
104	Fill	> 3.5	0.78	Fill of 103	Various	-
105	Layer	-	0.19	Subsoil	None	-
106	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil	None	-

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Alexander, M., 1993, *Roman Settlement Evidence at Ernulf School, St Neots*. Archaeological Field Unit, Cambridgeshire County Council Report 91

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-75183		
Project Name	Kings Lane Garage, St Neots		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	24-02-2010	Finish	26-02-2010
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	STNKIL10	Planning App. No.	-
HER No.	ECB 3346	Related HER/OASIS No.	-

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Development Type	Urban Residential

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Demolition layer	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Huntingshire		
Parish	St Neots Town		
HER	Cambridgeshire County Council		
Study Area	800m2	National Grid Reference	TL 1899 6037

Project Originators

Organisation	OA East
Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority
Project Design Originator	James Drummond-Murray
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Jonathan House

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Cambs County Store	OA East	Cambs County Store
STNKIL10	STNKIL10	STNKIL10

Archive Contents/Media




	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents	Digital Media	Paper Media
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Report
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



An Evaluation was carried out at Kings Lane Garage, St Neots, Grid ref TL 1899 6037. The evaluation consisted of two trenches located within the proposed development area. The remains consisted of 19th century demolition, and truncation dating to the period. No earlier features or finds were present on the site.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

Limit of Excavation	_____
Deposit - Conjectured	-----
Natural Features	_____
Sondages/Machine Strip	- - - - -
Intrusion/Truncation
Illustrated Section	<u>S.14</u>
Archaeological Deposit	
Excavated Slot	
Modern Deposit	
Cut Number	118

Sections

Limit of Excavation	-----
Cut	_____
Cut-Conjectured	-----
Deposit Horizon	_____
Deposit Horizon - Conjectured	-----
Intrusion/Truncation
Top Surface/Top of Natural	_____
Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing	- - - - -
Cut Number	118
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD 
Inclusions	

Convention Key



Figure 1: Location of trenches (black) with the development area outlined (red)

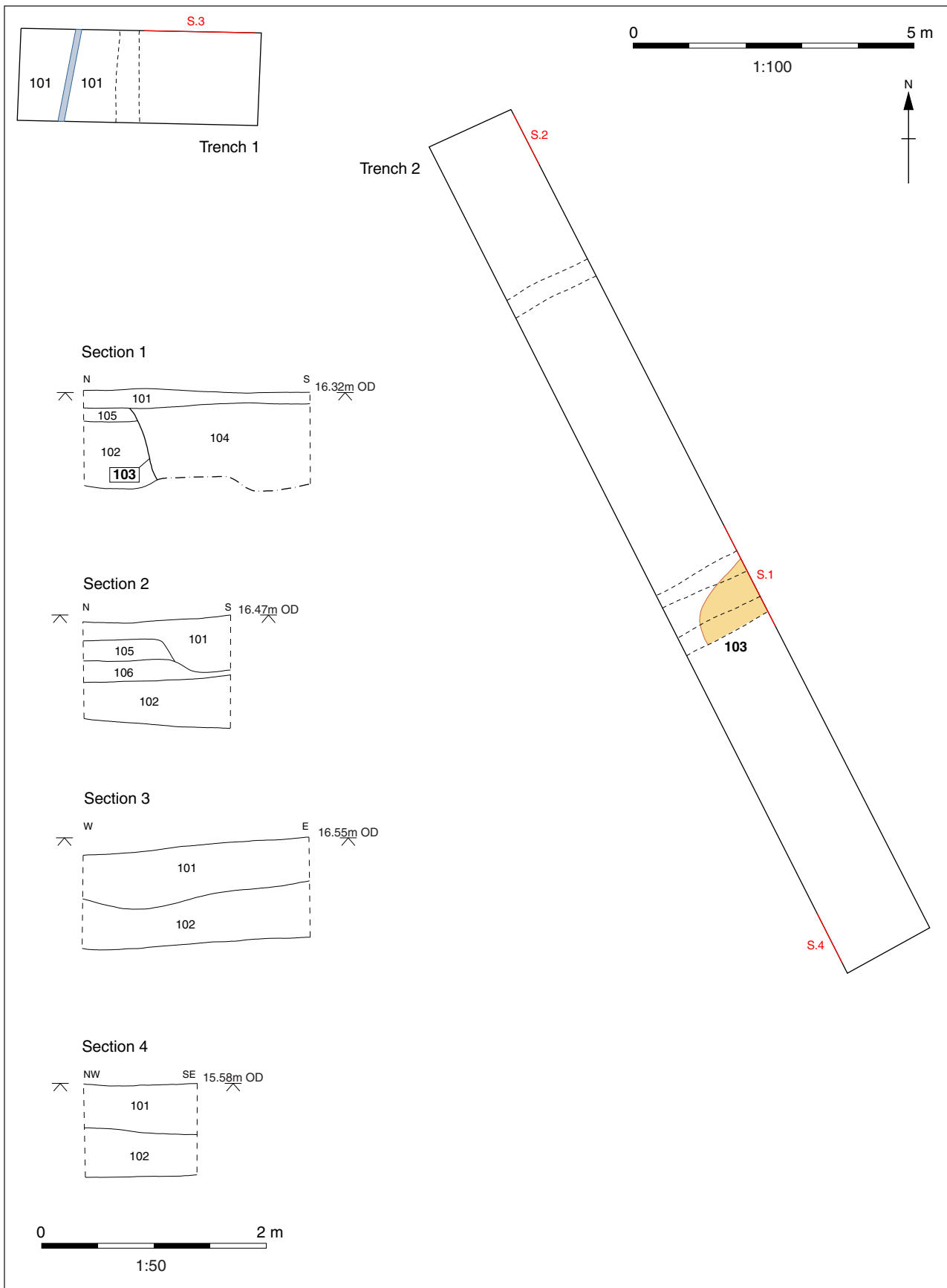


Figure 2: Trench plans with associated sections



Plate 1: Finds photograph



Plate 2: Trench shot



Plate 3: Section 1



Plate 4: Section 2



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